

communities. I support whatever directly benefits the resilient people of rural America, because they are the lifeblood of this country. That is why I support the Rural Development programs within the farm bill, and why I am bringing awareness to them now to ensure that these programs remain strong in the 2023 farm bill.

I will be back to the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture and rural America thrives in this country.

CONGRATULATING DALE MOORE ON HIS
RETIREMENT

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Kansan, Dale Moore, and to congratulate him on his retirement from a career of dedicated service to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers.

Dale grew up on a livestock, hay, and grain farm in Copeland, Kansas, which lies in my district, the Big First of Kansas. He went to Fort Hays State University, worked for Kansas Pork Producers Council, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Senator Pat Roberts.

In 2001, President Bush appointed Dale to serve as chief of staff at USDA, after which he served as legislative director for the House Agriculture Committee. Most recently, Dale has been serving as executive vice president at the American Farm Bureau Federation where his presence will be deeply missed.

Dale has tirelessly advocated for agriculture for more than 40 years, and he never forgot his southwest Kansas roots or the values he learned there: hard work, others before self, and personal responsibility.

I am grateful for Dale's leadership and service, and I offer him, his wife, Faith, and their entire family my best wishes as they begin this new adventure.

Congratulations, Dale.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY
REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I pose a few questions to my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

You certainly cannot be okay with criminals continuously being able to access guns.

You can't be okay with terrorists being able to buy guns.

You can't be okay with sociopaths continuing to buy guns.

You certainly can't be okay with what has happened in Uvalde; before that, Buffalo; what just happened in Tulsa, Sandy Hook, Parkland.

So if you are not okay with that, why the inaction? Why do you continue to prevent commonsense gun safety legislation that would stop sociopaths, ter-

rorists, and criminals from obtaining weapons? Why don't you work with us to pass commonsense legislation that, in many cases, over 90 percent of the public supports?

So many gun owners that I have talked to all across north Texas, people that are on the opposite end of the political spectrum to me, tell me that they support this commonsense gun safety legislation.

You continue to show inaction to the American public. It is unacceptable. We have got to do better. We have an opportunity to get something done this time around, and it is about time. The American public is sick of seeing nothing occur every time one of these massacres takes place in our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Republican colleagues to work with us on passing legislation that is long overdue and that the public is asking for. We can't continue to watch this happen and do nothing. We need to take action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR
NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for the severe mental health crisis in our country.

Two weeks ago, there was a terrible incident that occurred in Uvalde, Texas; 19 innocent children were murdered and two of their teachers alongside them. Uvalde is in my district, Texas' 23rd District.

Over a year ago, after I got elected, I visited Uvalde and I sat down with the county judge, who is a Democrat, and the mayor, who is a Republican, and the local sheriff. I sat down with them, and I said, If I could do one thing, what would that be, gentlemen? And they go: Tony, we need a mental health hospital.

They identified this crisis over a year ago. Last year, we appropriated over \$2 million toward that hospital. It is a \$25-million project, and I am working on the remaining \$23 million to get that over the finish line. This is something that that community asked for.

There is so much division here in Congress. There is so much hate and rhetoric that gets spewed. I think mental health is an area that can bring us together, that can unite us as we go forward, not only as we reflect on what happened in Uvalde, but across the country.

COVID did something to this country. We are coming out of that, and I think part of the mental health crisis that is going on in our country has to be addressed. It is heartbreaking to see what happened, to be there as the Uvalde community heals and comes to-

gether. What I will say is, this mental health crisis goes beyond those that are looking to cause harm to themselves and others.

Madam Speaker, I would argue everyone in that community needs to sit down with a mental health provider; my staff, included. Our team essentially had turned into a mini FEMA office where we were answering all kinds of different claims every day and having to hear these horrendous stories and having to hear the issues that our community was dealing with.

So this crisis is very deep and it is very sad. It is an issue that this body needs to address. It needs to start early on, not wait until when an incident occurs. We have to start very early on. This shooter, this gunman, was a troubled young man for a very long time. It was no surprise to a lot of people what occurred. If we could have got ahead of the issue instead of waiting until the problem happened, I think that is critical.

Another thing a lot of people don't realize, the day of the shooting, there was actually a young lady that had suicide ideations, and two of the local law enforcement officers had taken her to San Antonio. This was hours before the shooting.

What does that mean? That means the community of Uvalde has a very deep mental health issue that is popping up every single day. And Uvalde isn't unique. It isn't just this one small town and this one incident. We have seen it happen all over the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to come together. I urge Congress to come together and use this terrible incident to unite us in finding real, tangible solutions. Part of those solutions is identifying mental health resources which we can provide directly to the communities of need.

BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, in late April and early May when parents and Republicans in Congress began to sound the alarm about the unacceptable scarcity of baby formula, I thought to myself, Well, this is just another example of the compounding effect of the bad policies of the Biden administration.

But at the time, the facts had not come to light that the crisis is yet another direct result of the mismanagement and misguided Biden Presidency; a President focused on a woke, progressive agenda, while the basic functions of government are neglected or mismanaged.

The most critical fact that has come to light is that Abbott Nutrition's Sturgis plant supplied about one-fifth, 20 percent, of all infant formula in the United States before it closed. Furthermore, the company makes the majority of the formula for infants in the

Women, Infants, and Children program. That is more than 43 percent of babies in the United States. It is unfathomable that a facility this critical to the lives of our Nation's newborns can somehow slip through the cracks.

As of this past weekend, I am glad to see that the Sturgis plant is making formula again, but it could take a couple of months for supply to hit store shelves. Currently, the Nation's current out-of-stock rate is 74 percent. In Tennessee, it is 92 percent. This is indeed a worst-case scenario for parents and their vulnerable infant children.

How did we get here? Let's go through the timeline.

In September of 2019, inspectors found a handful of sanitary issues with the plant in Sturgis but allowed managers to continue operating while they implemented necessary changes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA conducted its first routine inspection of the Abbott Sturgis plant in 2 years in September of 2021. They found that the issues uncovered in the 2019 surveillance inspection had been resolved. At about the same time, in September 2021, the FDA receives the first complaint that a child was hospitalized with Cronobacter. Meanwhile, the Nation's out-of-stock rate for infant formula rose to 11 percent in November of 2021, when Dr. Robert Califf was nominated to serve as commissioner of the FDA.

December 1, the FDA received a second complaint related to the death of a child. The Centers for Disease Control determined that Cronobacter could have been a contributing factor.

In January of this year, the FDA receives their third complaint of a child hospitalized with Cronobacter, while at the same time The New York Times reports that baby formula shortages are, "worsening throughout the United States."

On January 31, the FDA begins a delayed follow-up inspection of the Abbott Sturgis plant. Thirteen days later, the nationwide out-of-stock rate of infant formula rises to 26 percent. Two days later, on February 15, Dr. Robert Califf is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the new commissioner of the FDA.

Two days after that, on the commissioner's second day on the job, Abbott announces a voluntary recall and hold of certain powdered infant formulas produced at the Sturgis plant. The same day, the FDA receives a fourth Cronobacter complaint.

Why does this timeline matter? Because President Biden said he wasn't made aware of the issues with the stock of baby formula until late April.

Now just imagine, on your second day on the job, a fire breaks out in your office, and you don't call the President to let him know? I don't understand. I truly don't.

Again, this plant produces one-fifth of the Nation's supply of baby formula. The crisis was foreseeable and extraordinary steps should have been taken to

avoid it. There is no doubt in my mind that the February formula recall followed by the Sturgis plant closure is the primary factor that turned an already increasing problem into a crisis.

There should have been more urgency. It should have been clear to the Biden administration in February that we were going to have a problem. Maybe it was and they just didn't want to tell the President, or maybe he was busy that day. Who knows. I am sure we will find out when Republicans take back the majority and conduct proper oversight of this administration.

Put simply, the FDA and President Biden fumbled the ball for months, and families across this country are paying the price. We cannot afford for this administration to take its eye off the ball again. The President must do better.

□ 1115

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ENNIS, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial celebration of the city of Ennis, Texas, founded on June 8, 1872.

When the railroad was expanded from Houston to St. Louis in 1872, many of the workers found solace and community in what we know today as Ennis.

The railroad workers were drawn to the area's bluebonnets and cotton fields. The appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds this Texas town still runs deep in the community.

Through the years, Ennis has grown as an agricultural and industrial community, attracting residents and visitors, which has earned it the title of the "Official Bluebonnet City" of our State.

Ennis is known for more than just its bluebonnets. It is also the hosting city of the National Polka Festival. The National Polka Festival began in 1967 and attracts as many as 50,000 people to the town.

Ennis is also home to the Texas Motorplex, where national records have been set and speed milestones have been broken. My family and I have been able to witness some truly remarkable races there.

It is places like these that make Texas proud. The events and venues of Ennis, Texas proudly promote Texas values by providing a family atmosphere and cultivating community outreach.

Strolling along the historic district of Ennis, one can experience plentiful restaurants and shopping options. When entering any store, you are kindly greeted. Families and neighbors welcome each other with open arms. The hospitality of Ennis is seen through these interactions, and it becomes evident why the citizens of Ennis take so much pride in their town.

Ennis has encompassed many of our Texan values, including community and family, and has shown Texas pride for the past 150 years. I am proud and honored to represent the people of Ennis in the Sixth Congressional District of Texas. I look forward to what the next 150 years brings to the great city of Ennis.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of peace and author of our salvation, we pause in prayer to You for the ongoing conflict overwhelming the country of Ukraine and terrorizing its people. After over 100 days of fighting, O Lord, the people cry to You for deliverance.

We pray to You on their behalf as their voices grow weak with exhaustion, their hope dim with each passing hour of unrelenting adversity.

God, You are their refuge and their strength. Do not delay Your salvation from them. You are their ever-present help in time of trouble. Do not deny them the strength of Your abiding spirit.

Though the Earth gives way to the aggression of their foe, give them reason not to fear. Though the seas are ensnared with the adversary's worst intentions, send Your spirit to brood over these waters and disrupt their chaotic plans and bring the order of Your peace.

May Ukraine bear witness to Your promises. God, You are within her, she will not fall. God, You will help her at break of day. Lord Almighty, You are with them. You are their fortress.

We pray with Ukraine by the power of Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS) come